

ago, ague and other fevers raged terribly; it is reported that every yard of rail laid, was at the cost or sacrifice of a human being; even now the bones of the victims may be seen jutting out from under the railway sleepers and bleaching in the sun. Fortunately for travellers in the present day those malignant fevers are in a manner unknown, or have wholly ceased. It is well it is so, for this is the most delightful and interesting part of the whole voyage.

The chief characteristic which a stranger observes on landing here is the deep green foliage of the cocoanut tree and palm. Pine-apples were selling at ninepence each, such beauties! All the tavern or storekeepers have monkeys at their doors. Turkey-buzzards are as common here as crows are in Britain. A good supply of delicious fruit is always to be had from the natives in this wonderful vegetable kingdom, where at every stoppage of the train the women and children crowd into the carriages crying, "Bananas, my dear," "Oranges or pine-apples, my dear," &c.

What a wonderful contrast is here presented to the eye of a stranger from more northern latitudes—every point of the compass discloses magnificent vistas of leaf, bough, and blossom, while all outline of landscape is lost under a perfect deluge of vegetation. No trace of the soil is to be seen. Lowland and highland are the same. Mountain rises upon mountain in graceful majesty, covered to their very crests with every variety of vegetation and floral beauty. The loveliness of nature here is indescribable; she seems decked out in her richest and most costly garb to welcome the adventurous pioneer to that Eden of the world and the Eldorado beyond. You simply gaze upon the scene before you with delight.

I would strongly recommend all those who are lovers of matchless scenery and fond of botanical research, to spend a few weeks in the vicinity of the railway which crosses the "Isthmus of Panama," and divides the Pacific from the Atlantic. Here all the gorgeous growths of an eternal summer are mingled in one impenetrable mass, whilst from the rank jungle of canes and gigantic lilies, and the thickets of strange shrubs that line the water, rise the trunks of the mango, the cocoa, the sycamore, and the superb-palm.